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3. [] During a conversation today, Jim Woolsey, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, said that:

a. Chairman Stennis continues to surprise his doctors at the rate of his improvement and is sending messages to the Hill and asking for use of a phone to which the doctors have not yet agreed.

b. Defense witnesses will be ready to begin testimony on procurement authorization by the end of the month, by which time Stennis, if he continues to improve, will probably designate Senator Symington to convene the Committee to receive their testimony and conduct other routine matters such as nominations. In this way Committee votes on major issues can be deferred until the middle of May by which time it is hoped Stennis will be well enough to resume the chairmanship, but of course unexpected crises may occur in the meantime.

c. Woolsey raised the Finney article in the New York Times with Rady Johnson, of Defense, who didn't seem to know anything about it and suggested Woolsey talk to Fred Buzhardt.

d. Woolsey said Defense officials were meeting with the Committee staff this week to explain the current situation regarding MASF in Southeast Asia. Woolsey expects a major problem in this regard, since Senator Fulbright will doubtless insist that all future funding in Southeast Asia be under MAP (i. e., under the jurisdiction of Foreign Relations rather than Armed Services Committee) and Woolsey believes that without the participation of Stennis it will be almost impossible to turn back the Fulbright forces. If they succeed, Woolsey predicts that Foreign Relations will impose severe restrictions on any Agency operations in Indochina.

e. Regarding legislation to protect news sources, Woolsey feels that something is very likely to pass this session but hopes Senator Ervin, as Chairman of Government Operations, will apply "rule of reason," striking a balance between the absolute protection enjoyed by a lawyer-client relationship, and the lack of protection implicit in recent court decisions. Woolsey understands that Ervin's approach is to provide the courts with the authority to apply a common sense rule in each case on the merits, an authority which apparently the courts haven't previously thought they had.

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